



# The City Chatter

## Newsletter for City of Warwick Employees



June, July, and August 2005

### **Buttonwoods Center now for the entire Community**

The Buttonwoods Community Center in Warwick now offers exciting recreational and educational programs for residents of all ages. Centrally located on West Shore Road, the center has recently added a wide variety of classes for toddlers, children, adults, teens and seniors, and will continue to expand programming opportunities as it grows into its new role in the Warwick community.

"It is so important to have a center that is welcoming and provides truly affordable, quality programs for every member of our community. The Buttonwoods Community Center is the ideal place to offer fun, educational programs that will enrich the lives of the people of Warwick," said Mayor Scott Avedisian.

Programs currently being offered for the spring and summer range from mother/daughter yoga beginning May 25, to week-long band camps in July. New programs are continually being added to meet the needs of the community.

Michael Rooney, Parks and Recreation Director, said he hopes that all Warwick residents will take advantage of the activities at the Buttonwoods Community Center. "This is a great opportunity for the Recreation Department to expand programs and offer residents of different age groups and interests the opportunity to explore new possibilities."

For a complete listing of programs and activities, log onto [www.warwickri.gov](http://www.warwickri.gov) and click onto Parks and Recreation, or call Meg Brugeman at 732-0670 or Sue Aldrich at 739-1746.

## ***July Birthdays***

### **Board of Canvassers**

Donna McDonald

### **Building Inspection**

Fred Sarno

Kathleen Beddingfield

### **Crossing Guards**

Gina Boyajian

Debra Hammond

Diane Iacono

### **Fire Department/Alarm**

#### **Division**

Melanie Frame

### **Fire Department/Uniform**

Brian Cobb

Ronald Driscoll

Seth Francis

Kevin Fraser

Alan Gouveia

Stephen Guercia

Michael Keller

Michael Matteson

Thomas Maymon

Timothy Packhem

Randy Russell

Kevin Sullivan

Warren Wright

### **Human Services**

Stephen Englert

Patricia St. Amant

Kevin Turgeon

### **Legislative**

Diane Brennan



### **Library**

David Carptenter

Susan Dunn

Nicole Dufresne

Joseph Terrizzi

### **Municipal Court**

Jonathan Wheeler

### **Parks & Recreation**

Walter Bailey

Scott Gavitt

Gregory Gemma

James LaFontaine

James Searles

### **Planning**

Mark Carruolo

### **Police Department/Civilians**

William Davenport

Tracey Hoyer

Eleanor Jordan

Gerald Lapierre

Michael O'Leary

Terrie Reilly

Patricia Viera

Walter Williams

### **Police Department/Uniform**

Daniel Gillis

Mark Jandreau

Stephen Lombardi

Ann Mastronardi

Patrick McGaffigan

Alfred Melucci

Yervant Parnagian, Jr.

Arthur Peltier

Edmund Pierce, Jr.

Frederick Pierce, Jr.

Paul Shanley

David Thompson

### **Public Works /**

#### **Administration**

June Anthony

### **Public Works / Highway**

James Bainter

Thomas Champlin

Peter Carmichael

Henry Cunningham

Kenneth Dodd

Laurie Trudell

### **Public Works /**

#### **Sanitation & Recycling**

John LaMake

### **Sewer Authority**

David Manchester

### **Tax Assessor's Office**

Mary Waples

### **Tax Collection**

Ken Mallette

### **Water Department**

Robert Desaulniers

Gary Morin

Dan O'Rourke

David Reardon

## ***August Birthdays***

### **City Clerk's Office**

Joann Fineberg

### **City Council**

Steven Merolla

### **Crossing Guards**

Karen Carvalho

### **Community Development**

Bill Facente

### **Fire Department/Uniform**

Bruce Andrews

Raymond Antonelli

James Campbell

John Feeley

David Goslin

Christopher LeClair

Robert Mancini Jr.

Michael Mernick

Bryan Owens

George Potter

Frederick Trudell

### **Human Services**

Diane Jenison

Kevin McMullen

Edward Miller

### **Library**

Sonita Cummings

Deborah Ferruolo

Lois Mazzone

Douglas Pearce

Ann Ricci



### **Municipal Court**

Kathleen McGuirl

### **Parks & Recreation**

Gregory Fleury

William Law

Robert Rollinson

Michael Rooney

### **Planning Dept.**

Carol Schraeder

### **Police Department/Uniform**

Jeffrey Enos

Joseph Mee

### **Police Department/Civilians**

Brenda Caracuzzo

David DiSano

John Kashmanian

Alisia Morris

### **Public**

### **Works/Administration**

David Picozzi

### **Public Works/Automotive**

John Needham

### **Public Works/Engineering**

Charles Sapcoe

Scott Small

### **Public Works/Highway**

David Barber

William Bonniol

David Devine

Richard Perez

Brian Rigney

### **Public Works/Maintenance**

Joseph Shalvey

### **Public Works/Sanitation &**

### **Recycling**

Christopher Brennan

Kenneth Silva

Scott Vespia

Jeffrey Wheeler

### **Purchasing**

Eileen Tortorella

### **Sewer Authority**

Andrew Bathgate

Robert Mack

### **Tax Assessor's Office**

Sandra Gemma

### **Tax Collector's Office**

Lynda Ortiz

### **Treasurer's Office**

Jean Bouchard

### **Water Department**

Mark Davenport

Michael DiPetrillo

## **September Birthdays**

### **Building Inspection**

Deborah Gemma  
Carol Chevalier  
Susan Weeden

### **City Clerk's Office**

Dorothy McCarthy

### **City Council**

Timothy Lee

### **Crossing Guards**

Marie Bourbon

### **Economic Development**

Karen Jedson

### **Finance Department**

Valerie Fisher

### **Fire Department/Uniform**

Christopher Albro  
Matthew Anthony, Jr.  
Anthony DeLuca  
Kevin Fraser, Jr.  
Marc Lamiroy  
William Liebrich  
Arthur Lowe  
Carl Pecchia  
Christopher Ricci  
James Salisbury  
James Warrener  
Jason Waterman

### **Human Services**

Gloria Fairbanks  
Robert Foster  
Margaret Harrington



### **Library**

Kathleen Berrigan  
Joseph Cavanaugh  
Melissa Foley  
Julie Goslin

### **MIS Department**

Richard DeSimone

### **Police Department/Civilians**

John Cota  
Sharon Pine

### **Police Department/Uniform**

Dennis Amerantes  
Christine Kelley  
Kenneth LaForce  
Stephen McCartney  
William McGuire  
Kevin Petit  
Christopher Stewart  
Andrew Tainsh

### **Public Works/Administration**

Edward Copping

### **Public Works/Automotive**

Larry Anthony  
Brian Steinkamp

### **Public Works/Building Maintenance**

Chris Giblin

### **Public Works/Highway**

Ernest Boudreau  
David Costa  
Melvin Higgins  
Joseph Lataille  
Francis Shannon  
Michael Weber

### **Public Works/Sanitation**

Keith Almon  
Richard Moffat

### **Sewer Authority**

Patrick Doyle

### **Tax Assessor's Office**

Patricia Dalesandro  
Debra Walch

### **Water Department**

Robert Cahir  
Robert Carberry  
Tammy Crabtree

## **Attention Municipal Employees**

***As a reminder, the Warwick City Chatter will be published quarterly on the 15<sup>th</sup> of June, September, December, and March***



### **Warwick's Relay for Life raises over \$78,000**



Relay For Life at Warwick was nothing short of amazing this year, thanks in part to the great coordination and support of many municipal employees. From the prominent placement on the city's website to the city's hosting of yard signs at police, fire, senior centers, and the recreation centers there was an outpouring of citizen participation this year. Those of you who provided a brochure across the counter to a resident certainly may have had no idea at the time of the tremendous information that you were providing.

Thanks especially to the two city teams, "Keeping the Faith", captained by Susan Folco and "Carol's Wacky Walkers", captained Carol Proulx, who joined with 48 other teams for the overnight encampment at Pilgrim's athletic field.

This year well over 200 cancer survivors joined the 500+ team members for the opening lap, along with another 500 people, participated in the 18 hour event. In doing so, we raised well over our \$72,000 projected goal and monies continue to come in over the next few weeks. All of the funds raised provide support and research through the services of The American Cancer Society, the nation's largest volunteer organization.

Warwick certainly proved that Relay For Life is indeed a community event unlike any other that provides support, encouragement and hope for those who have been affected in some way by cancer.

Please give yourself a big pat on the back - after all, WE ARE The American Cancer Society.

Again - THANKS to all of you who in any way participated in making this the best ever.

Patrick McCaffrey, co-chair



## Gaspee Days Parade - 2005



In June of 1772 brave colonists from Rhode Island burned the British revenue schooner, HMS Gaspee, in what has become recognized as the first overt action leading to the American Revolutionary War. Since 1965, the Gaspee Days Committee and Pawtuxet Village, with some financial support from the City of Warwick, has commemorated this act with a series of events in May and June, culminating with the Gaspee Days Parade.

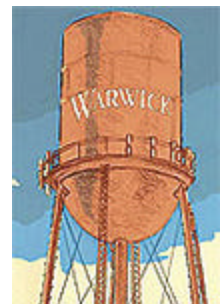
If you did not have the opportunity to attend this wonderful event, the City of Warwick has developed an online scrapbook of pictures provided by City Sergeant Ed Carpenter. Visit [www.warwickri.gov](http://www.warwickri.gov) to view our collection.

## Warwick Shows Off: An All Warwick Artists Exhibition

Warwick Museum of Art

June 4-July 2

This June, The Warwick Museum of Art presents "Warwick Shows Off: An All Warwick Artists Exhibition," a special invitational exhibition thanking many of the talented artists residing in the City of Warwick who have supported the Museum in recent years.



"Warwick Shows Off" includes painting, photography, sculpture and stained-glass work of over two dozen local artists, including Krzysztof Matthews, Gail Armstrong, William Martin, Paula Bolis, Kathy Szarko, Tim Riley, Joe Paquette, Donna St. Pierre, Ulick Mahoney, Lee Alexander and Bart Boss.

The exhibition runs from June 4th to July 2nd. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 12-5.

## ***Employee Milestones***



<p><b><i>Years of Service</i></b> <b><i>June 2005</i></b></p> <p><b><u>25 Years</u></b></p> <p><b><i>Fire Department</i></b> Edmund Armstrong Raymond Gervelis Ralph Matteson</p> <p><b><u>15 Years</u></b></p> <p><b><i>Police Department</i></b> David Hutchings Alan Valliere</p> <p><b><u>5 Years</u></b></p> <p><b><i>Police Department</i></b> John Kelly</p> <p><b><i>Police Civilian</i></b> William Lagasse</p> <p><b><i>Water Department</i></b> Gary Morin</p>	<p><b><i>Years of Service</i></b> <b><i>July 2005</i></b></p> <p><b><u>15 Years</u></b></p> <p><b><i>Police Department</i></b> Jeffrey Enox</p> <p><b><i>DPW – Highway</i></b> Richard Labrie</p> <p><b><u>10 Years</u></b></p> <p><b><i>Police Department</i></b> Charles Boisseau Gregory Coutu Barbara Frazier Michael Gilbert David Morrow Rick Rathburn</p>	<p><b><i>Years of Service</i></b> <b><i>August 2005</i></b></p> <p><b><u>25 Years</u></b></p> <p><b><i>Police Department</i></b> David Bastien Robert Bentsen Raymond LeBlanc Janice Sassi</p> <p><b><u>5 Years</u></b></p> <p><b><i>Tourism, Culture, and, Development</i></b> Susan Folco</p>
---	--	---

## ***The Mayor's Mailbox***



Dear Mayor Avedisian,

Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedule to visit me at Lippitt Elementary School. We were all so happy to see you. You were such a great part of my state project. Everyone wanted your autograph and was disappointed that time did not permit it. Because of you, my learning experience was a successful one. We all will keep in mind about how important recycling is.

Your Friend,

Lourry Nordin

---

Dear Mr. Pagliarini:

I'm writing to thank you for the beautiful work your company has done on the waterfront project at the end of Lippitt Avenue, Warwick. At first I had been opposed to the idea of creating a park and didn't relish giving up part of my yard, but the end result is lovely. The plants are doing well, even down to bunches of blueberries on the bushes. I've met more of my neighbors this spring than in the past 27 years that I've lived here -- everybody and his dog has walked down to enjoy the new access ramp and the park, and so far there has been no rowdy midnight drinking.

Bill Pulaski was very considerate of my qualms about the project, even saving my row of daylilies and re-using them. I want to commend him for not only doing such a good job, but also for being good at the human relation side of things. He made the work go smoothly and successfully, and left my property better than he found it. I'd like to thank all the people who worked with him. The only one whose name I know is Bob Radoch. It's been a pleasure to chat a little as the work progressed. The stonemasons who spoke only Portuguese turned the plain concrete seawall into a thing of beauty -- a surprise bonus.

Thanks again to all your staff for creating a beautiful park.

Sincerely,  
Joan Lusk

*Note: This letter was sent to Paul Pagliarini, of Central Nurseries, Inc. in Johnston and copied to Mayor Avedisian*

---

Mayor Avedisian,

Thank you for the recent civics lesson while attending the public hearing for the Fiscal 2006 budget on May 26th. As a representative for the Warwick Off-leash Friends (WOLF), I especially want to express our thanks for your support for a dog park in the City of Warwick.

We were all enthusiastic about the discussion of the dog park at this meeting and look forward to your decision on this endeavor.

Sincerely,  
Anne Marie Greaves  
Warwick Off-Leash Friends



---

Dear Sirs:

As a fairly new Warwick resident, I recently participated in your Recreation Department's water aerobic and master swim classes, on Tuesday and Thursday nights. This letter is to inform you of the superb program and exceptional instructors.

Barbara, the water aerobic instructor, is a talented swimmer/dancer, and she provided our varied ability class with group and individual instruction. The class was rigorous and, best of all, lots of fun. Rating A+++

Although my stamina did not permit me to fully participate in the master swim class, Ian, the instructor, was very knowledgeable and was able to coach me on the precise mechanics I needed to improve my stroke. Rating A+++

The McDermott Pool was clean and obviously the staff has pride in their work and facility. I hope that you will take a moment from your busy life to visit both these instructors who give your Recreation Department a touch of class and expertise seldom seen in a public city facility.

I hope to enjoy other recreation programs in the future.

Sincerely,  
Carrie Glenn

---

Dear Mayor Avedisian:

The Rhode Island Rivers Council's first offering of our watershed stewardship program would not have been possible without the support of Juan Mariscal and his staff at the Warwick Sewer Authority. We thank you and the City of Warwick for providing such outstanding leadership for our program.

The watershed stewardship program is designed to introduce interested citizens to tools for land and water protection. The five-part class covers water quality management and monitoring, land protection strategies and riparian buffer protection. The 26 students completing the class this month will lead watershed protection projects in partnership with the Rivers Council or a local watershed council.

Juan helped design and deliver our water quality modules. He and his staff hosted our Saturday workshop on May 14 at the Sewer Authority. Juan, BettyAnne Rossi, Charles Labbe and Jenelle Chraft brought their enthusiasm and expertise to the class and were truly excellent. One of our participants told me that the class exceeded his expectations. I give Juan and BettyAnne much of the credit for this success!

Thank-you for supporting this exciting new program.

Sincerely,  
Meg Kerr, Chair  
The Rhode Island Rivers Council

---

Good afternoon Mayor,

I wanted to let you and Sue know that the Red Hat Dinner held at Pilgrim Senior Center last Wednesday was a great success with 144 people in attendance. Our wonderful city employee volunteers (that Sue so graciously invited to take part in this event) really came through for us. The following employees were wonderful in helping us serve the seniors at this meal. They were: Sue Aldrich, Marie Bennett, Carol Caruso, John Earle, Joe Gallucci, Juan Mariscal, Dot McCarthy, Ray McKay and Bobbie Trudeau. Their help was instrumental in making this event a success, and it was most appreciated.

Thanks, Sue for publicizing this event and volunteer opportunity for us.

Patty Martucci

---

Dear Mayor,

On behalf of the Arthritis Foundation, Southern New England Chapter, I want to thank you for being this year's honorary chair for the Annual Arthritis Walk.

Despite the bad weather, over 250 participated in the walk and we were able to raise over \$30,000 to continue the mission of the foundation and to support the 282,000 Rhode Islanders currently suffering from arthritis and related joint disease.

May is Arthritis Awareness month, and the Connecticut office still has one more walk to complete the four our chapter has hosted. These nationwide team-walking events will help fund hundreds of research projects and programs, as well as bring awareness of the number one cause of disability to the public.

As part of our Arthritis Walk, we incorporated a **Healthy Life Styles Arena**. Nurses from Kent Hospital offered screening for both blood pressure and glucose levels.

Again, we thank you for the time you took to film the promotional piece and for lending us your support.

Sincerely,

Denise Aiken  
Committee Member  
Arthritis Foundation

---

Dear Mayor Avedisian,

I'd just like to let you know how happy we are at our new *home away from home* at the Buttonwoods Family Center. We are now running two playgroups there: our *Lollipop Kids* group supports toddlers with oral motor challenges and is held on Tuesday mornings (9:30-10:30); and our *Talk Time* playgroup that began last week (Thursday mornings 11:00-12 noon) focuses primarily on speech/language development. Both groups are running so smoothly, thanks to the staff at the Buttonwoods Center. It has truly been a pleasure to work with Meg. All the staff members at the Center are so helpful and accommodating. The parents who accompany their children are so pleased with the facility, which they have commented is clean and spacious. Our staff couldn't be happier!

It's great to see that our need for morning programs seems to work well for the Family Center's schedule, which would likely be more frequently utilized in the afternoon for after-school programs, etc. We look forward to seeing older kids coming to programs there during the summer. It will truly become a *family center* before long!

We are so happy about our new partnership with the City. This new initiative is so exciting and one which could certainly serve as a model for other communities. Thank you for your vision, Mayor.

Karen Ostrowsky, Clinical Coordinator  
Trudeau Early Intervention Program

---

Honorable Mayor Scott Avedisian:

I feel compelled to communicate with you at this time.

After D'Ambra Construction Company repaved Canonchet Avenue/Canonchet Lane/Bolton Street, I had problems as a result with the City of Warwick. I contacted Melissa [Coutcher] of your office. She responded with kindness, thoughtfulness and patience. She ran interference with the various appropriate city departments and in less than two weeks the problems were resolved.

During all of this, she kept her cool. I was concerned that nothing would be done, but she proved me wrong.

Melissa is a valuable city employee. You, the city and the community are very fortunate to have a personable, articulate, hard-working administrative assistant. She is the Warwick City Employee of the Year 2005, in my book.

Very Truly Yours,  
Alfred Duhaine

---

Dear Mayor Avedisian,

After the torrential rains we had on March 28th, our basement was flooded. After a call to the Division of Public Works, Mr. David Picozzi and his crew managed to clear a drain pipe and catch basin. While our water problem on this street is far from over, they certainly helped us in an emergency. We wanted them, and you, to know we are grateful.

Sincerely,  
Howard and Mary Sisson

Note: Letters may be edited for clarity due to space constraints.
---

## ***Retirees' Corner***

### ***Recently Retired***

Warmest congratulations to Paul Defusco and Kenneth Hudson of the Water Department on their recent retirements. Paul retires after over 29 years of service to the City of Warwick, while Kenneth will retire with over 18 years at the Water Department. Best wishes to both of you for a long and happy retirement!

### ***Deceased***

#### **April**

Paul Whalen – DPW / Highway

Miriam Garlick – City Clerk's Office

#### **May**

Lillian Hornbeck - Building Inspection

James Randall – Sanitation

Vernon Robinson – Sewer Authority

#### **June**

George Fratus – DPW / Automotive

We extend our heartfelt sympathies to the family, friends and co-workers of Earlene Wyrostek, who died on June 2 after an illness. Earlene, who worked in the Tax Assessor's/Tax Collector's Department for over 27 years, was a well-loved member of the staff and will be deeply missed.

---

### **A reminder to all retirees:**

Any changes, such as change of address, direct deposit, etc., should be forwarded to the Personnel Department by contacting Jane Jordan. You may write to her at: 3275 Post Road, Warwick, RI 02886 or call (401) 738-2000, ext. 6250.

## ***General Announcements***

### **Safety Jackpot Winners**

<b><i>March</i></b>	<b><i>David Carpenter</i></b>	<b><i>Warwick Public Library</i></b>
<b><i>April</i></b>	<b><i>Margaret Harrington</i></b>	<b><i>Human Services</i></b>
<b><i>May</i></b>	<b><i>Gregory Gemma</i></b>	<b><i>Parks &amp; Recreation</i></b>

All municipal hourly employees, who complete a calendar month without a lost-time injury, are eligible for the monthly Safety Jackpot Drawing of \$150. Don't forget to forward your monthly lottery slips to the Personnel Department so you get a chance at winning!

*Remember to promote and maintain a safe and healthy work environment.*



### ***Congratulations!***

Jason Bastien's wife delivered a baby on 5/19/05  
Emily K. Bastien.